

(a) whether the Government propose to open a technical education centre in Byana-Dholpur area of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this institution is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

National Policy on Dev Dasi Pratha

3896. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Policy for the abolition of Dev Dasi Pratha for social upliftment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor and the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There does not seem to be a need for a National Policy on the subject since the problem is of a localised nature. However, the concerned States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra where Devdasi system was prevalent, have enacted laws for the prohibition of Devdasi System. The commercial aspect of this practice attracts provision of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 as amended in 1978 and in 1986. This supplements the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls.

Godavari University

3897. SHRI K.S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for setting up of a new Godavari University in Andhra Pradesh has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education - 1986, with modifications undertaken in 1992, states that, in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions, it is proposed that, in the near future, the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of, and expansion of facilities in, the existing institutions.

[Translation]

Frauds in Army Medical Corps, Lucknow

3898. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the army officials have submitted a report to the Headquarters requesting a thorough investigation into the alleged fraud of Rs. 700 Crores in the Pay and Accounts Office of the Army Medical Corps, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is resentment among the jawans of the units regarding its functioning;

(d) the nature of work handled by this office and under whose control this office functions;

(e) whether the CBI had conducted a raid and caught the guilty officials red-handed for taking bribes during the last one year;

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(g) whether the army is also carrying on investigation in the functioning of this office; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been some complaints regarding non-adjustment of dues and delays in final settlement of accounts in the Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow.

(d) The Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow maintains the accounts relating to the pay and allowances and Provident Fund and adjusts other miscellaneous allowances of JCOs/ORs belonging to the Army Medical Corps. It is a sub-office of the Defence Accounts Department under a Controller who is under the administrative control of Controller General of Defence Accounts.

(e) Yes, Sir. In three different raids, five individuals were apprehended.

(f) As per the recommendations of the CBI, approval for initiating criminal proceedings against two persons and departmental proceedings against three persons has been accorded.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Silt in Rivers

3899. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the details with regard to the rapid siltation of rivers in India;
- (b) whether Narmada river excels all other rivers in terms of rapid silt accumulation;
- (c) if so, whether it is adversely affecting the Narmada Valley Projects; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Based on the analysis of capacity survey data of representative reservoirs in the country, the region/river basin-wise sedimentation (siltation) rate are as under:-

Sl. No.	Region	Sedimentation/Siltation Rate (Hectare-metre/100 square Kilometre/year)
1.	Himalayan region (Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra basin)	Varies from 5.658 to 27.85
2.	Indo-Gangetic plains	Varies from 0.3 to 16.03
3.	East flowing rivers excluding Ganga upto Godavari	6.08 in case of Hirakud reservoir.
4.	Deccan peninsular east flowing river including Godavari	Varies from 0.15 to 12.16
5.	Narmada Tapti basin	Varies from 3.64 to 7.16
6.	West flowing rivers	Varies from 0.96 to 25.4

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Appending of Father & Mother's name to Children

3900. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether women organisations, including the National Commission for Women have demanded that in order to give due status and recognition to contribution of women in society, the names of both the father and mother be appended to the name of their children in all documents requiring identification of the children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b). Apart from women organisations, the Committee on Petitions of the Rajya Sabha in its 99th report has also recommended that only the name of parents/spouse should be insisted upon instead of father/husband's name in all forms and documents. Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to take follow-up action on this recommendation.

Turn around time of Ships at Ports

3901. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the average turn around time of ships at country's ports is between four and ten days, whereas it is four to six hours in most of the foreign ports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to lack of infrastructure and poor productivity, the major ports of the country are not able to attract maritime vessels; and

(d) if so, the effective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIT.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nomination of the vessels at the ports is generally higher than the available infrastructure facilities and the productivity is also lower compared to the foreign ports.

(c) No, Sir.